Modern English Usage

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Dictionary of Modern English Usage *Jeremy Butterfield Henry Watson Fowler H. W. Fowler Bryan Garner R. W. Burchfield Henry Watson Fowler H. W. ‡q (Henry Watson) Fowler (‡d) Bryan A. Garner R. E. Allen Margaret Nicholson Bryan Garner H. W. Fowler Knud Schibsbye Henry Watson Fowler Margaret Nicholson (Lexicographer) Bryan A. Garner Bas Aarts H. W. Fowler Jeremy Butterfield*

why literally shouldn t be taken literally why americans think home in on something is a mistake and brits think hone in is is it ok to spell ok okay what s wrong with hence why was alanis morrisette ever ironic fowler s dictionary of modern english usage is the world famous guide to english usage loved and used by writers editors and anyone who values correct english since it first appeared in 1926 fowler s gives comprehensive and practical advice on complex points of grammar syntax punctuation style and word choice now enlarged and completely revised to reflect english usage in the 21st century it provides a crystal clear authoritative picture of the english we use while illuminating scores of usage questions old and new international in scope it gives in depth coverage of both british and american english usage issues with reference also to the english of australia canada india new zealand and south africa the thousands of authentic examples in the book vividly demonstra

revised edition of an english language dictionary comprising up to date definitions and guidelines as an aid in the correct use in writing and speaking of frequently misused words

what grammarians say should be has perhaps less influence on what shall be than even the more modest of them realize no book had more influence on twentieth century attitudes to the english language in britain than henry fowler s dictionary of modern english usage it rapidly became the standard work of reference for the correct use of english in terms of choice of words grammar and style much loved for his firm opinions passion and dry humour fowler has stood the test of time and is still considered the best arbiter of good practice in this new edition of the original dictionary david crystal goes beyond the popular mythology surrounding fowler s reputation to retrace his method and arrive at a fresh evaluation of his place in the history of linguistic thought with a wealth of entertaining

examples he looks at fowler s stated principles and the tensions between his prescriptive and descriptive temperaments he shows that the dictionary does a great more than make normative recommendations and express private opinion in addition he offers a modern perspective on some 300 entries in which he shows how english has changed since the 1920s about the series for over 100 years oxford world s classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe each affordable volume reflects oxford s commitment to scholarship providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features including expert introductions by leading authorities helpful notes to clarify the text up to date bibliographies for further study and much more

with more than a thousand new entries and more than 2 300 word frequency ratios the magisterial fourth edition of this book now renamed garner s modern english usage gmeu reflects usage lexicography at its finest garner explains the nuances of grammar and vocabulary with thoroughness finesse and wit he discourages whatever is slovenly pretentious or pedantic gmeu is the liveliest and most compulsively readable reference work for writers of our time it delights while providing instruction on skillful persuasive and vivid writing garner liberates english from two extremes both from the hidebound purists who mistakenly believe that split infinitives and sentence ending prepositions are malfeasances and from the linguistic relativists who believe that whatever people say or write must necessarily be accepted the judgments here are backed up not just by a lifetime of study but also by an empirical grounding in the largest linguistic corpus ever available in this fourth edition garner has made extensive use of corpus linguistics to include ratios of standard terms as compared against variants in modern print sources no other resource provides as comprehensive reliable and empirical a guide to current english usage for all concerned with writing and editing gmeu will prove invaluable as a desk reference garner illustrates with actual examples cited with chapter and verse all the linguistic blunders that modern writers and speakers are prone to whether in word choice syntax phrasing punctuation or pronunciation no matter how knowledgeable you may already be you re sure to learn from every single page of this book

renowned for its authority and wit this is the standard work on the correct but natural use of english completely revised and expanded it provides guidance on grammar syntax and style

guide to precise phrases grammar and pronunciation can be key it can even be admired but beloved yet from its first appearance in 1926 fowler s was just that henry watson fowler initially aimed his dictionary of modern english usage as he wrote to his publishers in 1911 at the half educated englishman of literary proclivities who wants to know can i say so so he was of course obsessed with in swift s phrase proper words in their proper places but having been a schoolmaster fowler knew that liberal doses of style wit and caprice would keep his manual off the shelf and in writers hands he also felt that description must accompany prescription and that advocating pedantic superstitions and fetishes would be to no one s advantage adepts will have their favorite inconsequential entries from burgle to brood truffle to turgid would that we could quote them all but we can t resist a couple

for over seventy years modern english usage has been the standard work on the correct but natural use of english renowned for its authority and wit fowler has become a household name in all english speaking countries this edition published in 1927 sold over 60 000 copies in its first year and quickly became the benchmark for all points of grammar syntax and style its influence has extended even to the battlefield churchill wrote to the director of military intelligence about the plans for the invasion of normandy why must you write intensive here intense is the right word you should read fowler s modern english usage on the use of the two words the early reviews attest to its on going success as a practical and clear arbiter of what is best practice in the written language it was and is heralded as brilliant comprehensive thoughtful thorough fresh and pungent wise witty vigorous absorbing back cover

the authority on grammar usage and style

this invaluable reference work offers the best and most sought after advice on english grammar based on henry

fowler s original which is still a classic text after nearly 80 years updated with the use of oxford s unique language databases it comprises over 4 200 entries giving clear recommendations on grammar pronunciation spelling confusable words and writing style dt advice on how to avoid common pitfalls in english usage such as the split infinitive infer or imply who or whom dt broad coverage of british and american english including examples from all over the english speaking world dt wide ranging illustrative quotations from well known authors such as julian barnes and a s byatt and international newspapers and journals

since first appearing in 1998 garner s modern american usage has established itself as the preeminent guide to the effective use of the english language brimming with witty erudite essays on troublesome words and phrases this book authoritatively shows how to avoid the countless pitfalls that await unwary writers and speakers whether the issues relate to grammar punctuation word choice or pronunciation now in the third edition readers will find the garner s language change index which registers where each disputed usage in modern english falls on a five stage continuum from nonacceptability to the language community as a whole to acceptability giving the book a consistent standard throughout garner s modern american usage 3e is the first usage guide ever to incorporate such a language change index and the judgments are based both on garner s own original research in linguistic corpora and on his analysis of hundreds of earlier studies another first in this edition is the panel of critical readers 120 plus commentators who have helped garner reassess and update the text so that every page has been improved

brings english usage up to date and in most instances considers american usage

oxford modern english grammar is oxford s brand new and definitive guide to english grammar this book has been written by a leading expert in the field covers both british and american english and makes use of authentic spoken and written examples arranged in four clear parts for ease of use its comprehensive coverage ranges from the very basic to the most complex aspects of grammar all of which are explained clearly yet authoritatively this

descriptive source of reference is invaluable for those with an interest in the english language undergraduate and postgraduate students and for anyone who would like a clear guide to english grammar and how it is used

fowler s concise dictionary of modern english usage is an invaluable reference work that offers the best advice on english usage known in previous editions as the pocket fowler this third edition is a descendant of the original 1926 edition of a dictionary of modern english usage by henry fowler based on the unrivalled evidence and research of the oxford languages programme the new edition answers your most frequently asked questions about language use should you use a split infinitive or a preposition at the end of a sentence is it infer or imply who or whom what are the main differences between british and american english over 4 000 entries offer clear recommendations on issues of grammar pronunciation spelling confusable words and written style real examples are drawn from oup s vast database of classic and contemporary literary sources newspapers and magazines and the internet jeremy butterfield has judiciously revised the text to reflect the english usage practices and con

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